

WATER ALLOCATION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT PRIORITY USE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING

November 20, 2002

Members Present:

Walter S. Combs, Ph.D. Co-Chair
John P. O'Brien Co-Chair
Kathleen Crawley
H. Charles Obert
Christine Lipsky
Ken Ayars
Susan Licardi, Director; North Kingston Water Supply Board
Al Bettercourt RI Farm Bureau

Members Absent:

Irving Owens
Larry Macendo
Andy Dzykewicz

I. CALL TO ORDER:

With a quorum present, John O'Brien called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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III. ITEMS FOR ACTION:

A. Mission and Reporting Dates:

This subcommittee continues to refine its mission with the essential point taken from Element 721: Water Supply Policies for RI. P-1 Water for drinking and the sustenance of life shall be the priority use while striving to protect other uses and considering public health, safety, and the overall economic wellbeing of the state.

This subcommittee shall report to the Water Allocation Commission in March 2003.

B. State Guide Plan Policies Related to Priorities:

Discussion of Element 721 continued to focus on the strategies to prioritize the multiple uses and users in competition for water supplies. RI has policy in the guide plans that serve as a starting point, we must be sure not to conflict with policy that can get the job done. Before we introduce a new law, make sure it is not covered in a separate document.

The question of enforcement must be resolved. It was observed that water suppliers are not encouraged to conserve.

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

A. Next Meeting:

This subcommittee will meet on December 18, January 15, February 19 from 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM in the Bureau of Audits Conference Room at the RI Department of Administration, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI

B. Legal Issues:

This subcommittee is intent to see a summary report that outlines all statute and regulations that pertain to the questions of allocation or priority uses before we issue recommendations.

V. OTHER BUSINESS:

Dr. Combs and Mr. O'Brien will work together to draft the Mission Statement and prepare a list of issues for the subcommittee to review. Each member is asked to add any other key issues that they feel are important. Dr Combs reminded us that it may be another subcommittee that will add one of our key issues into their agenda but we are invited to make sure that the issue makes it into the overall discussion of water allocation.

Dr. Combs also asked for a mission statement for each of the other subcommittees

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

Respectfully submitted,
H. Charles Obert

Our Subcommittee will meet in the Bureau of Audits Conference Room at the RI Department of Administration building at One Capitol Hill, Providence from 9 to 1:30 AM, on the third Wed of December, January, February and March if we haven't reported to the full committee by then.

**Note: For more information on Water Allocation, visit: <http://www.seagrant.gso.uri.edu/scc/wrb/index.html>.*